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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JTFEX 06-2 “Operation Bold Step” Begins off East Coast

Five Nations and the Army’s 34th Infantry Division to participate

NORFOLK, Va. - More than 16,000 service members from five countries will participate in Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 06-2 “Operation Bold Step”, July 21-31, 2006.

“Operation Bold Step” will present U.S., interagency, and coalition forces with realistic and dynamic exercise threats that closely replicate operational challenges military forces routinely encounter around the world. It is designed to provide quality, realistic, and dynamic training environments to prepare U.S. forces for joint, interagency, and combined operations, and sustainment training for units that recently returned from deployment.

"This is a unique opportunity -- assembling this Joint Force - not just the Navy and Marine Corps team, but the Army and our coalition partners." said Vice Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, Commander, Second Fleet. "This exercise will not only test the Ike Strike Group but also our command and control capabilities as a Joint Task Force.

JTFEX 06-2 serves as the forward-certifying event for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (IKE CSG), and sustainment training for units from the Theodore Roosevelt CSG (TR CSG) and Bataan Expeditionary Strike Group (BAT ESG). JTFEX 06-2 also serves as a significant training milestone toward Second Fleet’s staff certification as a Joint Task Force (JTF) headquarters, planned for 2007.

The Second Fleet staff will be conducting assessment, planning, and execution functions at the operational level of conflict with the support of US Joint Forces Command, US Northern Command, Coast Guard Atlantic Area, the State Department, and several others. Second Fleet is hosting Dr. Carol Fuller, from the State Department. Dr. Fuller is the director, Plans and Policy directorate, Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) bureau at the State Department and is also Commander, Second Fleet, Vice Admiral Mark Fitzgerald’s Political Adviser.

JTFEX 06-2 will be the first opportunity for WHA and Second Fleet to train together in a dynamic environment integrating the political and military instruments of power at both the



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operational and strategic levels and will continue a fruitful relationship between the two organizations in support of transformational diplomacy and JTF proficiency.

U.S. and coalition naval assets underway for the exercise include the Second Fleet flagship, USS Wasp (LHD-1), with embarked Second Fleet distributed staff, the aircraft carriers USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and USS Theodore Roosevelt with associated units, and units from the USS Bataan Expeditionary Strike Group. Participating forces will train using equipment and systems that incorporate

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the latest advances in technology, and will support the full range of capabilities that may be required in various geographic areas.

The IKE CSG consist of USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Eight (CCSG-8), Carrier Air Wing 7 (CVW-7), Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT (CDS-28), guided-missile cruiser USS Anzio (CG 68), guided-missile destroyer USS Mason (DDG 87), guided-missile destroyer USS Ramage (DDG 61), fast combat support ship USNS Arctic (TAOE 8) and the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Newport News (SSN 750). The French Submarine FRS Emeraude (S 604) will also be participating.

The TR CSG units participating include USS Theodore Roosevelt, Carrier Strike Group Two (CCSG-2), Carrier Air Wing 8 (CVW-7), Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWO TWO (CDS-22), guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69), frigate USS McInerney (FFG 8) and frigate USS Kauffman (FFG 59).

Units from the Bataan Expeditionary Strike Group with elements from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (26 MEU) will also be underway for the exercise. The units include: the amphibious transport dock ship USS Shreveport (LPD 12), amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), guided missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72), guided-missile destroyer USS Mahan (DDG 72) and frigate USS Underwood (FFG 36).

Elements from the Army's 34th Infantry Division, and the 8th Canadian Brigade Group (38 CBG) will make up the Combined Coalition Force Land Component Command (CFLCC) for the exercise.



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The Combined Coalition Forces Air Component Command (CFACC) includes Airborne Early Warning (AEW) and Air Missile Defense (AMD) and Commander Fleet Forces Command (CFFC) Mobile Sea Range (MSR). The Mobile Sea Range supports all levels of the Atlantic Fleet's pre-deployment and sustainment training; ship trials; Fleet/Department of Defense (DOD)/Northern Command (NORTHCOM) exercises; and test evaluation events.

In addition, the following forces are participating in the exercise as the opposing force against the U.S. and coalition forces: The Columbian Submarine ARC Tayrona (SS 29), USS Cape St. George (CG 71), USS Taylor (FFG 50), USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58), USS Nitze (DDG 94), USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) and USS Doyle (FFG 39).

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For more information on this exercise, contact the Second Fleet Public Affairs Office at (757) 443-9850 (x47122).